Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus which manages and organizes expense information, comprising:

a scanner to scan various types of receipts, each said receipt containing expense information printed thereon, said scanner scanning each said receipt to obtain scanned information for each receipt; and

a computer in communication with the scanner, said computer executing a software which receives said scanned information for each receipt and which processes the scanned information including numerical data in the receipt to obtain said expense information from said scanned information,

wherein said expense information for each receipt is categorized into one or more predetermined categories to obtain categorized information for each receipt,

wherein said categorized information for each receipt is combined with categorized information for other said receipts to produce and display report information for one or more of said predetermined categories.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scanner is connected to said computer through a USB port or a pass through parallel port, and wherein the software is stored in the computer.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein as the receipts are being scanned, the scanned information from the scanned receipts is automatically received by the computer and the expense information for each receipt is captured from the scanned information for each receipt, and categorized into one or more of said predetermined categories.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the apparatus is ~~able~~ configured to process receipts of no predefined format that include grocery receipts, purchase receipts, credit card receipts or bank statements having different widths and thicknesses.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further including a display device in communication with said computer, wherein the report information is displayed on said display device in a tabular form, a pie-chart form, or as a text file.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein formats of the report information displayed in tabular form include income-expense reports, expenses versus planned budget, cash flow, or a list of all expenses grouped under said one or more predetermined categories.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the apparatus allows a user to edit the expense information obtained from each of the scanned receipts.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the apparatus is ~~able~~ configured to save the expense information processed from the scanned receipts in Quicken Interchange Format, thereby allowing the expense information obtained from the scanned information to be imported by a financial management program.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each scanned receipt is organized as an individual transaction so that the expense information obtained from the scanned information for each scanned receipt is able be individually viewed and edited.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein multiple items in the receipt are used to create a split transaction having the categorized information categorized into customizable categories.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software allows for record keeping, budgeting and for balancing a budget by displaying tabular data to enable comparison with pre-customized budgets or limits in each said one or more predetermined category.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for managing financial information, comprising:

a scanner for scanning various types of receipts of no predefined format, each said receipt containing expense information printed thereon;

a computer in communication with said scanner, said computer receiving a scan of each said receipt, and processing said scan by collecting the expense information from the scan; and

a display device in communication with said computer, wherein said computer organizes said expense information collected from each said scan by categorizing

Appl. No. 10/054,390
Amendment filed July 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2007

Docket No. RKP-5521

the expense information into one or more predetermined expense categories to

obtain report information,

wherein said report information for at least one of said predetermined

categories is displayed on said display device.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said

scanner is a portable scanner able-configured to automatically feed the receipt

through said scanner while the receipt is being scanned, said receipts of no

predefined format including grocery receipts, purchase receipts, credit card receipts

or bank statements having different widths and thicknesses.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the

apparatus allows a user to edit the expense information collected from the scans of

each of said receipts.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the

apparatus is able-configured to save the expense information collected from the

scans of said receipts in Quicken Interchange Format, thereby enabling the expense

information collected from the scans to be imported by a financial management

program.

Appl. No. 10/054,390
Amendment filed July 5, 2007
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Docket No. RKP-5521

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein each scan of said receipts is organized as an individual transaction so that the expense information obtained from each scanned receipt is able be individually viewed and edited.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of managing expense information collected from receipts, comprising:

providing a scanner for scanning various types of receipts having expense information printed thereon;

scanning said receipts using said scanner to produce a scan of each receipt;

receiving, by a computer in communication with said scanner, the scan of each said receipt scanned by said scanner;

collecting automatically, by said computer, expense information contained in the scan of each said receipt, wherein the position of the expense information on each receipt is not predetermined;

categorizing said expense information for each receipt, by said computer, into one or more of a plurality of predetermined expense categories;

combining said expense information for each said receipt in said predetermined expense categories with expense information of other receipts categorized into those predetermined expense categories to obtain report information; and

displaying the report information on a display device.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, further including a step
of

creating a user defined expense category as at least one of said

predetermined expense categories.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, further including a step
of

organizing each said scan as a separate transaction to enable individual

viewing and editing of the expense information collected from each said scan.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, further including a step
of

displaying said report information on said display device in a tabular form, a

pie-chart form, or as a text file.